

tamsulosin hydrochloride composition comprising sustained-release fine particles in which the polymer substance of the formulation is hydroxypropylmethylcellulose and ethylacrylate. The Examiner further contends that a water soluble polymer, such as polyvinyl alcohol, is used in the formulation. Applicants traverse this rejection.

Although Shinoda et al. discloses a sustained-release formulation that comprises sustained-release fine particles that include several polymers, it does not disclose a sustained-release formulation that comprises all of the elements set forth in claim 1. Shinoda et al. discloses a particle core that is coated with a layer comprising an active ingredient, such as tamsulosin, and a polymer, such as hydroxypropylmethyl cellulose. This layer is coated with a polymer, such as a mixture of ethyl cellulose and hydroxypropylmethyl cellulose. This latter layer is then coated with a polymer, such as ethyl cellulose. There is no disclosure in Shinoda et al. of an active ingredient-containing film coating layer that is coated on an enteric film coating layer which is coated on a sustained-release core. Because Shinoda et al. does not disclose all of the elements of the claimed subject matter, it cannot anticipate the claimed invention.

In view of the above remarks, Applicants submit that Shinoda et al. does not anticipate the claimed invention. Withdrawal of this rejection is requested.

In view of the above remarks, it is believed that the present claims satisfy the provisions of the patent statutes and are patentable over the cited prior art. Reconsideration of the application and early notice of allowance are requested. The Examiner is invited to telephone the undersigned to expedite the prosecution of the application.

Respectfully submitted,

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